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RADIUM MONITORING NETWORK

DATA RELEASE NUMBER 8

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, DENVER, COLORADO

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RADIUM MONITORING NETWORK

DATA RELEASE NO. 8

U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Public Health Service
Bureau of State Services
Division of Water Supply and Pollution Control
Region VIII
Denver, Colorado

Colorado River Basin Water Quality Control Project

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In this eighth data release report, radium-226 and uranium results are presented that supplement data from previous releases of October 1962, January 1963, July 1963, January 1964, July 1964, January 1965, and July 1965. The data indicate evidence of uranium mining and milling from analysis of composite water samples at stations of the Radium Monitoring Network of the Colorado River Basin Water Quality Control Project. The network is a surveillance system consisting of continuous surface water sampling at 27 locations throughout the basin. It assays the radiological content of river water over the entire basin. Tabular data are given.

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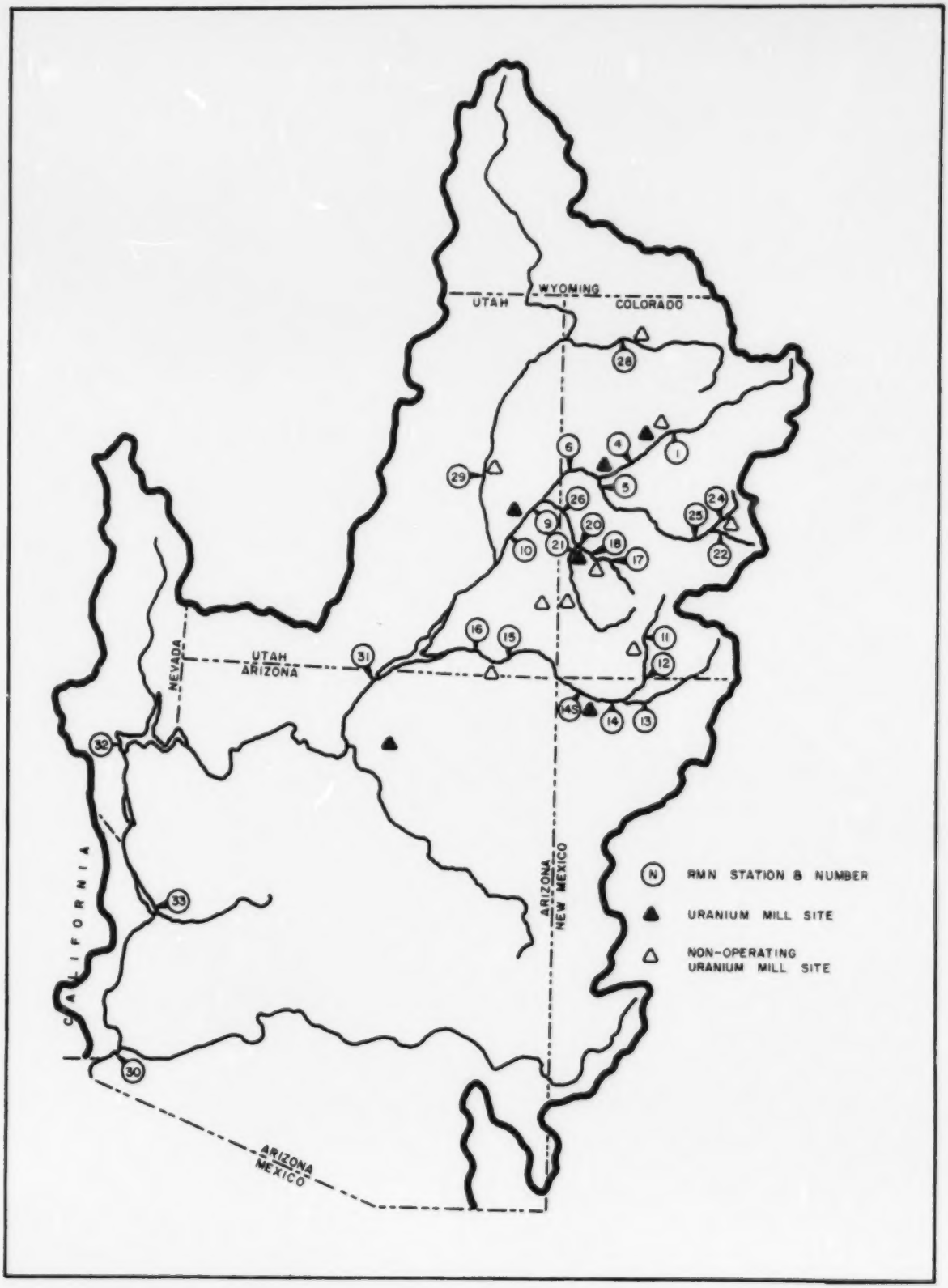

GPO 851-409

COLORADO RIVER BASIN RADIUM MONITORING NETWORK

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER QUALITY CONTROL PROJECT
RADIUM MONITORING NETWORK DATA RELEASE No. 8

INTRODUCTION

This is the eighth release of data collected through the Radium Monitoring Network which is maintained by the Colorado River Basin Water Quality Control Project of the Division of Water Supply and Pollution Control, U. S. Public Health Service. The purpose of this release is to supplement data given in seven previous releases dated October 1962, January 1963, July 1963, January 1964, July 1964, January 1965, and July 1965.

A summary report of Radium Monitoring Network data collected through December of 1963 was published in the November 1964 edition of Radiological Health Data, copies of which are now available through Colorado River Basin Project Headquarters. A similar report of data collected through December of 1964 was published in the November 1965 edition of the same periodical. Reprints are not yet available.

The Radium Monitoring Network is a surface water surveillance system currently consisting of twenty-one sampling stations located throughout the Colorado River Basin. During initial stages of the surveillance program, the system consisted of twenty-seven sampling stations. The purpose of this network is to provide a continuous assay of Basin river water radioactivity resulting primarily from uranium mining and milling industry waste discharges. Samples are analyzed for radium-226, uranium, gross alpha, gross beta, thorium alpha, lead-210, and strontium-90 in order to provide a comprehensive picture of uranium industry radiological contaminants and nuclear weapons testing fallout contributions to Colorado River Basin surface waters.

SAMPLING PROCEDURES

Depending on individual station parameters, Radium Monitoring Network (RMN) samples are collected as either automatic or grab samples. Grab samples are collected once or three times per week, and automatic samplers collect 21 ml portions every hour. The samples are sent "as is" to the Colorado River Basin Project Laboratory where they are composited and filtered through 0.45 micron membrane filters as soon as possible after the samples for a compositing period are received. After filtration, they are acidified with 2 percent by volume of 12 N HCl and radiochemical determinations are then performed on the filtered water.

RESULTS

The Appendix contains the radium-226 and uranium data appended to that presented in the seven previous data releases. A summary of all radium-226 and uranium data is given in Table 1, and gross alpha, gross beta, lead-210, thorium alpha and strontium-90 results are given in Table 2. A portion of these latter data were presented in the last Data Release. Some corrections have been made and are shown in Table 2.

No significant changes in monthly average concentration of radium-226 or uranium were noted at any stations. The station below the Uravan, Colorado uranium mill continued to portray the effectiveness of the improved

effluent treatment facilities there. Radium-226 concentrations in the San Miguel River below the mill were well below one picocurie per liter in all but one of the 22 samples analyzed.

The only detectable trend noted in the two years of quarterly gross alpha results shown in Table 2 was an apparent rise in concentrations throughout the Basin during the fourth quarter of 1964. This rise did not show up in the two "background" stations on the Animas River above Durango and the San Miguel River above Naturita, Colorado. The general ubiquitousness of the noted peak would indicate it was associated with fallout rather than with uranium milling wastes. Gross beta results from the various stations did not indicate any common concentration fluctuations, but seemed to portray a slight decreasing trend from mid-1963 to mid-1965.

Thorium alpha and lead-210 results were generally errotic throughout the Basin. Concentrations at most stations (except below the Uravan, Colorado and Mexican Hat, Utah uranium mills) seemed to be in the general "background" range recorded at the Animas River station above Durango.

Strontium-90 results for the two year period were also erratic for the river stations. Results obtained on samples from Lower Basin flow regulated station at Lake Mead and the U. S. - Mexico border, were more stable and exhibited approximately the same range of concentrations noted at the Animas River "background" station.

Several polonium-210 determinations were performed on samples collected during the second quarter of 1965. These results, indicating polonium-210 activity as of September 2, 1965, are given below:

Sampling Station	Po-210 (pc/liter)
RMN#1, Colorado River at Silt, Colorado	0.04
RMN#6, Colorado River below Grand Junction, Colorado	0.07
RMN#10, Colorado River below Moab, Utah	0.03
RMN#14S, San Juan River below Shiprock, New Mexico	0.02
RMN#17, San Miguel River above Naturita, Colorado	0.04
RMN#18, San Miguel River above Uravan, Colorado	0.02
RMN#20, San Miguel River below Uravan, Colorado	0.06
RMN#33, Colorado River at Lake Havasu	0.02

TABLE 1

RADIUM-226 AND URANIUM IN SURFACE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN

Station Number and Location	Radium -226 Avg.[1] pg/l	Radium -226 Range pg/l	Radium -226 No. of Analyses	Uranium Avg.[1] µg/l	Uranium Range µg/l	Uranium No. of Analyses
Animas River						
#11 above Durango, Colo.	0.05	0.01-0.11	43	1.2	0.1- 2.5	37
#12 Colorado-New Mexico State Line	0.29	0.05-1.5	94	3.9	0.4- 18	52
Colorado River						
#1 at Silt, Colorado	0.20	0.04-0.39	49	3.6	0.1- 4.4	35
#4 at DeBeque, Colorado	0.19	0.05-0.44	50	3.6	0.4- 7.2	35
#6 at Fruita, Colorado	0.18	0.09-0.26	44	8.9	2.0- 14	35
#9 above Moab, Utah	0.26	0.10-0.50	78	10	2.6- 17	65
#10 below Moab, Utah	0.41	0.18-7.2	74	11	3.0- 22	61
#31 at Page, Arizona	0.23	0.12-0.31	27	8.4	3.6- 13	27
#32 Lake Mead	0.33	0.21-0.40	29	8.7	5.6- 11	29
#33 Lake Havasu	0.35	0.06-0.38	30	8.4	5.9- 11	30
#30 at Yuma, Arizona	0.17	0.06-0.33	39	8.4	5.9- 11	34
Dolores River						
#21 at Bedrock, Colorado	0.48	0.03-1.4	47	12	0.6- 35	34
#26 at Gateway, Colorado	1.1	0.04-3.2	86	13	0.1- 51	63
Green River						
#28 below Maybell, Colo.	0.09	0.03-0.15	36	2.7	0.6- 8.0	32
#29 below Green River, Utah	0.09	0.05-0.15	29	5.0	1.6- 7.6	26
Gunnison River						
#24 above Gunnison, Colo.	0.04	0.01-0.08	43	1.2	0.0- 2.6	33
#25 below Gunnison, Colo.	0.04	0.01-0.09	46	2.3	0.6- 4.3	33
# 5 at Grand Junction, Colo.	0.10	0.01-0.30	42	10	0.7- 19	35
San Juan River						
#13 above Farmington, N.M.	0.07	0.03-0.16	20	2.8	0.0- 8.3	19
#14 below Farmington, N.M.	0.09	0.04-0.21	36	3.3	0.9- 9.0	35
#14S below Shiprock, N.M.	0.10	0.04-0.26	112	12	1.8- 93	108
#15 above Mexican Hat, Utah	0.13	0.04-0.66	44	7.6	2.6- 23	31
#16 below Mexican Hat, Utah	0.13	0.01-0.84	122	9.6	0.8- 35	104
San Miguel River						
#17 above Naturita, Colo.	0.04	0.00-0.19	62	1.4	0.0- 3.9	34
#18 above Uravan, Colo.	0.23	0.05-1.2	95	6.5	0.9- 63	64
#20 below Uravan, Colo.	0.91	0.06-5.6	176	27	0.0-150	148

1/ Average concentration obtained from all data presented in this and previous data releases.

TABLE 2

GROSS ALPHA, GROSS BETA, THORIUM ALPHA, LEAD-210 AND STRONTIUM-90 IN COLORADO RIVER BASIN SURFACE WATERS

Station Number and Location	Quarter[1/] Period	Gross Alpha pc/l	Gross Beta pc/l	Th-alpha pc/l	Pb-210 pc/l	Sr-90 pc/l
RMN 1 Colorado River at Silt, Colorado	1	2	10	-	-	
	2	2	18	-	0.4	
	3	2	8	0.4	0.0	
	4	3	20	0.1	0.0	
	5	5	8	0.2	0.1	
	6	11	9	0.2	0.0	
	7	2	8	0.1	0.0	
	8	2	8	0.5	0.1	
RMN 4 Colorado River at DeBeque, Colorado	1	3	11			2.8
	2	3	22			0.9
	3	3	9			0.9
	4	1	23			1.8
	5	2	13			1.1
	6	8	13			0.7
	7	9	8			1.1
	8	2	8			1.2
RMN 6 Colorado River below Grand Junction, Colorado	1	7	41	0.1	0.1	
	2	5	11	0.0	0.3	
	3	7	22	0.5	0.1	
	4	2	14	0.1	0.0	
	5	9	18	0.1	0.1	
	6	14	10	0.3	0.1	
	7	10	10	0.1	0.1	
	8	3	7	0.1	0.1	
RMN 9 Colorado River above Moab, Utah	1	8	33			8.4
	2	12	20			1.6
	3	5	12			1.2
	4	2	16			2.2
	5	10	21			4.8
	6	10	14			0.9
	7	9	14			1.0
	8	2	8			1.4
RMN 10 Colorado River below Moab, Utah	1	9	31	0.1	0.0	
	2	4	8	0.2	0.1	
	3	6	16	0.0	0.1	
	4	3	14	0.0	0.0	
	5	8	22	0.4	0.2	
	6	13	13	0.2	0.4	
	7	8	9	0.1	0.3	
	8	4	8	0.0	0.1	

TABLE 2 - continued

Station Number and Location	Quarter[1/] Period	Gross Alpha pc/l	Gross Beta pc/l	Th-alpha pc/l	Pb-210 pc/l	Sr-90 pc/l
RMN 11						
Animas River above	1	1	5			0.9
Durango, Colorado	2	1	5			0.7
	3	1	9			0.9
	4	1	8			1.5
	5	2	7			0.8
	6	2	9			0.7
	7	2	7			1.2
	8	0	5			0.9
RMN 14S						
San Juan River below	1	12	16	0.0	0.1	
Shiprock, New Mexico	2	7	14	0.1	0.0	
	3	3	9	0.0	0.0	
	4	8	14	0.2	0.0	
	5	6	17	0.2	0.1	
	6	14	19	0.2	0.4	
	7	3	11	0.1	0.1	
	8	2	7	0.0	0.0	
RMN 15						
San Juan River above	1	6	29			6.0
Mexican Hat, Utah	2	4	14			3.2
	3	4	10			2.0
	4	3	14			2.9
	5	6	21			4.4
	6	11	10			1.9
	7	3	13			2.7
	8	-	-			-
RMN 16						
San Juan River below	1	8	30	0.4	0.2	
Mexican Hat, Utah	2	5	13	0.3	0.1	
	3	4	13	0.2	0.1	
	4	4	10	0.3	0.2	
	5	6	24	0.6	0.2	
	6	14	14	1.7	0.5	
	7	8	13	0.1	0.0	
	8	-	-	-	-	
RMN 17						
San Miguel River above	1	2	7	0.1	0.0	
Naturita, Colorado	2	2	7	0.1	0.0	
	3	2	7	0.1	0.1	
	4	1	10	0.0	0.0	
	5	2	7	0.2	0.2	
	6	2	5	0.1	0.0	
	7	3	3	0.0	0.1	
	8	1	6	0.1	0.1	
RMN 18						
San Miguel River above	7	5	6	0.0	0.0	
Uravan, Colorado	8	1	7	0.0	0.1	

TABLE 2 - continued

Station Number and Location	Quarter Period[1/]	Gross Alpha pc/l	Gross Beta pc/l	Th-alpha pc/l	Pb-210 pc/l	Sr-90 pc/l
RMN 20						
San Miguel River						
below Uravan, Colorado	1	13	23	1.1	0.6	
	2	19	43	8.0	0.4	
	3	20	26	0.8	0.2	
	4	12	33	1.0	0.1	
	5	16	23	0.1	0.3	
	6	27	20	0.1	0.3	
	7	16	17	0.4	0.0	
	8	4	10	0.2	0.1	
RMN 29						
Green River below	1	3	26			9.6
Green River, Utah	2	3	14			3.3
	3	1	10			2.5
	4	3	12			3.2
	5	3	16			4.0
	6	-	-			-
	7	-	-			-
	8	-	-			-
RMN 32						
Colorado River at	1	3	5			1.1
Lake Mead	2	3	10			1.2
	3	4	4			1.2
	4	5	9			1.4
	5	8	12			1.4
	6	19	16			1.6
	7	6	11			2.0
	8	7	12			2.0
RMN 33						
Colorado River at	1	5	9	0.0	0.2	
Lake Havasu	2	3	22	0.0	0.2	
	3	4	9	0.1	0.1	
	4	4	11	0.2	0.0	
	5	8	10	0.1	0.6	
	6	4	15	0.2	0.3	
	7	5	12	0.0	0.0	
	8	4	13	0.2	0.1	
RMN 30						
Colorado River at	1	6	9			1.2
US-Mexico Border	2	4	10			1.5
	3	3	11			1.3
	4	4	10			1.5
	5	11	10			1.2
	6	18	22			0.7
	7	8	10			1.2
	8	4	14			1.4

1/ Quarter Period

1 July - September 1963
2 October - December 1963
3 January - March 1964
4 April - June 1964
5 July - September 1964
6 October - December 1964
7 January - March 1965
8 April - June 1965

APPENDIX

RMN Station 1: Colorado River at Silt, Colorado
Started: November 25, 1961
Type: Automatic Pump-Timer

Date - 1965	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
February 28-April 3	0.25	3.5
April 3-May 1	0.14	3.2
May 1-May 29	0.08	1.9
May 29-July 3	0.09	2.2
July 3-July 30	0.06	2.8
July 30-August 27	0.13	1.5

RMN Station 4: Colorado River above DeBeque, Colorado
Started: November 12, 1961
Type: Automatic Pump-Timer

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
February 28-April 3	0.24	3.5
April 3-May 1	0.16	2.9
May 1-May 29	0.09	1.9
May 29-July 3	0.13	2.2
July 3-July 30	0.06	3.0
July 31-August 28	0.14	2.3

RMN Station 5: Gunnison River above Grand Junction, Colorado
Started: April 16, 1962
Type: Three grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 1-April 2	0.06	9.4
April 5-April 30	0.09	4.0
May 3-May 28	0.06	2.6
May 31-July 2	0.08	4.6
July 5-July 30	0.09	3.6
August 2-August 27	0.04	6.9

RMN Station 6: Colorado River near Fruita, Colorado
Started: April 16, 1962
Type: Three grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
April 5-April 30	0.15	4.6
May 3-May 28	0.09	2.0
May 31-July 2	0.11	3.3
July 5-July 30	0.09	3.0
August 2-August 27	0.13	6.4

RMN Station 9: Colorado River above Moab, Utah
Started: December 11, 1961
Type: Three grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 1-April 2	0.21	11
April 5-April 30	0.20	7.2
May 3-May 28	0.18	2.6
May 31-July 2	0.13	3.6
July 5-July 30	0.16	3.6
August 2-August 27	0.14	6.4

RMN Station 10: Colorado River below Moab, Utah
Started: December 11, 1961
Type: Three grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 1-April 2	0.33	13
April 5-April 30	0.30	8.1
May 3-May 28	0.33	3.0
May 31-July 2	0.19	3.4
July 5-July 30	0.16	4.7
August 2-August 27	0.22	7.2

RMN Station 11: Animas River at Durango, Colorado
Started: July 17, 1961
Type: One grab sample per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 5-April 6	0.05	1.4
April 9-April 30	0.06	1.4
May 7-May 28	0.04	0.9
June 4-July 2	0.08	1.5
July 9-July 30	0.01	2.0

RMN Station 12: Animas River at Colorado - New Mexico State Line
Started: January 19, 1961
Type: Three grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 µg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 2-April 3	0.08	3.2
April 6-May 2	0.08	2.4
May 5-May 30	0.14	1.7
June 2-July 2	0.08	2.3
July 4-July 31	0.05	1.8

RMN Station 14: San Juan River at Fruitland, New Mexico
Started: August 1, 1962
Type: One grab sample per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 1-March 29	0.05	2.6
April 5-April 26	0.08	2.3
May 3-May 24	0.08	1.7
May 31-June 28	0.08	1.3
July 5-July 26	0.06	1.5
August 2-August 23	0.04	1.5

RMN Station 14S: San Juan River below Shiprock, New Mexico
Started: August 7, 1962
Type: One grab sample per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 3	0.05	4.6
March 10	0.06	4.0
March 17	0.14	8.4
March 24	0.08	7.9
March 31	0.06	5.8
April 7	0.06	5.0
April 14	0.09	5.3
April 21	0.05	3.2
April 28	0.05	2.6
May 5	0.09	4.3
May 13	0.09	2.4
May 26	0.11	1.9
June 2	0.04	2.7
June 9	0.08	2.0
June 16	0.05	1.8
June 23	0.08	2.9
June 30	0.05	2.8

RMN Station 15: San Juan River above Mexican Hat, Utah
Started: December 11, 1961
Type: Six daily grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 1-April 3	0.09	5.8
April 5-May 1	0.05	4.0

RMN Station 16: San Juan River below Mexican Hat, Utah
Started: December 11, 1961
Type: Six daily grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 1-March 6	0.09	4.6
March 8-March 13	0.06	8.8
March 15-March 20	0.10	26
March 22-March 27	0.09	7.5
March 29-April 3	0.08	5.5
April 5-April 10	0.06	4.2
April 12-April 17	0.06	4.0
April 19-April 24	0.06	4.0
April 26-May 1	0.06	2.3

RMN Station 17: San Miguel River above Naturita, Colorado
Started: October 28, 1961
Type: Automatic Pump-Timer

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
February 28-April 4	0.04	1.4
April 4-May 1	0.04	1.0
May 1-May 31	0.04	1.2
May 31-July 5	0.08	1.8
July 5-August 1	0.04	1.7

RMN Station 18: San Miguel River above Uravan, Colorado
Started: October 27, 1961
Type: Automatic Pump-Timer

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
February 28-April 4	0.13	5.0
April 5-May 1	0.41	2.6
May 1-May 31	0.16	1.3
May 31-July 5	0.09	2.0
July 5-August 1	0.08	2.8

RMN Station 20: San Miguel River below Uravan, Colorado
Started: October 9, 1961
Type: Automatic Pump-Timer

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
February 28-March 7	0.21	36
March 7-March 13	0.19	12
March 14-March 21	0.19	11
March 21-March 28	0.63	16
March 28-April 4	0.39	28
April 4-April 11	1.7	19
April 11-April 18	0.41	25
April 18-April 25	0.31	2.4
April 25-May 1	0.24	2.3
May 1-May 9	0.18	3.0
May 9-May 16	0.34	4.3
May 16-May 23	0.11	1.7
May 23-May 31	0.14	2.9
May 31-June 7	0.14	4.3
June 7-June 14	0.18	4.2
June 14-June 21	0.10	3.8
June 21-June 28	0.19	5.1
June 28-July 5	0.31	2.2
July 5-July 11	0.11	3.6
July 11-July 19	0.11	3.6
July 19-July 26	0.20	5.3
July 26-August 1	0.09	4.2

RMN Station 21: Dolores River at Bedrock, Colorado
Started: October 30, 1961
Type: Three grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 1-April 2	0.44	11
April 5-April 30	0.14	2.6
May 3-May 28	0.16	0.6
May 31-July 2	0.09	1.5
July 5-July 30	0.16	2.5

RMN Station 24: Gunnison River above Gunnison, Colorado
Started: December 11, 1961
Type: Three grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 1-April 2	0.05	1.4
April 5-April 30	0.01	0.9
May 3-May 28	0.05	0.3
May 31-June 30	0.04	2.5

STATION DISCONTINUED

RMN Station 25: Gunnison River below confluence of Tomichi Creek, Gunnison, Colorado
Started: December 11, 1961
Type: Three grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 1-April 1	0.03	3.2
April 5-April 30	0.03	2.2
May 3-May 28	0.03	1.6
May 31-June 30	0.03	2.4

STATION DISCONTINUED

RMN Station 26: Dolores River at Gateway, Colorado
Started: October 30, 1961
Type: Three grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 2-April 3	0.84	22
April 5-May 1	0.48	10
May 3-May 29	0.38	2.9
May 31-July 2	0.38	4.4
July 5-July 31	0.86	6.5

RMN Station 28: Yampa River below Maybell, Colorado
Started: July 2, 1962
Type: Three grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 1-April 2	0.09	2.9
April 5-April 30	0.06	3.5
May 3-May 24	0.03	1.8

STATION DISCONTINUED

RMN Station 29: Green River below Green River, Utah
Started: July 16, 1962
Type: Three grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1964		
October 5-October 28	0.06	4.3

STATION DISCONTINUED

RMN Station 30: Colorado River at U.S. - Mexican Border
Started: July 30, 1962
Type: Five grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 2-April 2	0.24	9.8
April 5-April 30	0.15	8.2
May 3-May 27	0.08	6.5
June 1-July 2	0.18	8.6
July 6-July 30	0.23	10

RMN Station 31: Colorado River at Page, Arizona
Started: May 1, 1963
Type: 300 cc composite per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 8-March 22	0.21	7.6
April 5-April 26	0.22	6.8
May 3-May 24	0.25	7.5
June 1-June 30	0.22	7.0
July 5-July 26	0.12	3.6

RMN Station 32: Colorado River at (Lake Mead) Boulder City, Nevada
Started: March 11, 1963
Type: Three grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 1-April 2	0.39	10
April 5-April 30	0.40	9.1
May 3-May 28	0.36	8.4
June 1-July 2	0.31	9.7
July 6-July 26	0.39	9.9

RMN Station 33: Colorado River at Metropolitan Water District Intake Lake Havasu, California-Arizona
Started: January 7, 1963
Type: Three grab samples per week

Date	Radium-226 pg/liter	Uranium µg/liter
1965		
March 3-March 29	0.30	10
April 5-April 30	0.34	9.1
May 3-May 28	0.38	8.4
June 2-June 28	0.36	8.0